

added the right amount of humor to every situation and approached challenges with optimism. He really liked people, and he took his time to give everyone his full attention. That quality along with his sincerity contributed to the vast number of friends and acquaintances who respect and adore him.

Pat led a life of service to our State and Nation. After graduating from the College of Idaho and obtaining post graduate credits from the University of Idaho and Boise State University, Pat joined the U.S. Army through which he served 5 years in Active service and another 5 years in Reserve service. During his military service, Pat was promoted to the rank of captain and qualified for Airborne wings, the Ranger tab and Special Forces green beret. After returning to Wilder, he grew a farm of 32 acres into a more than 1,500-acre farm and was a partner in Snake River Produce. He also served for 10 years as the director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture before he was elected in 2008 to represent Idaho's District 10 in the State legislature.

His list of accomplishments and associations with a number of Idaho and national organizations, including his service as past president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, is extensive. He advocated for good jobs, a healthy rural economy, business development, lower taxes, less regulation, parental involvement in education, protection of private property and water rights and a lean and accountable government. His principles included belief that "promoting strong families and renewing an individual sense of responsibility are key to reversing the erosion of our nation's foundation." He worked considerably to advance these and other objectives on behalf of Idahoans.

I extend my condolences and prayers to Pat's family, friends and loved ones, including his wife Suzanne his three children and his parents Michio and Ayako. Pat was a great friend to many, and he was very proud of his family. He was a talented farmer and public servant. Pat Takasugi's contribution to our State will not be forgotten.●

REMEMBERING CORPORAL VOLLIE PITTS

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to CPL Vollie Pitts of Hutchinson, KS. Corporal Pitts proudly served our country in World War I and has been revered as a hero by his family, friends, and those who served alongside him. Today it is my privilege to share the story of this unsung hero and honor him for his service and sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Corporal Pitts was born on February 14, 1897, and raised on his family's farm in Salina, KS. Like so many Kansans of his generation, Corporal Pitts put his country's needs before his own, leaving

his parents and three siblings behind to volunteer as a member of the Kansas National Guard. At the young age of 19, he was first called into duty when his regiment was mobilized to the Mexican border in 1916. Their mission was to protect Americans from Mexican outlaws who were operating along the U.S. border. Following the successful completion of their mission, his regiment joined with another and became the 137th Kansas Infantry Regiment.

Corporal Pitts was again called into duty in 1917 to serve his county in World War I. In the spring of 1918, Corporal Pitts and his regiment made their way to the frontlines for one of the most significant battles of the First World War—the Battle of the Argonne Forest. It was during this battle when Corporal Pitts courageously rushed a German gun emplacement, single-handedly capturing the gun and part of its crew. His heroic actions that day saved countless lives, including the men of his own unit. Even after he was wounded and gassed, Corporal Pitts continued to fight until he was forced to seek help at a field hospital, where doctors determined his fighting days had come to an end.

Upon his arrival back in the United States, Corporal Pitts received an honorable discharge from the service and returned home to Kansas. On September 2, 1920, he began a new chapter in his life and married Gladys Reichardt. The young couple made their home in Hutchinson, Kansas and raised two daughters, Koloma and Patricia. Several decades later in 1954, Corporal Pitts passed away in Denver, CO, surrounded by his family.

Corporal Pitts exemplified many traits we can all admire: courage, dedication, and selflessness. His heroic actions during World War I will forever remain a testimony to his love for this country and his fellow Americans. America is proud and honored to call Corporal Pitts one of our own, and we shall never forget his courage and sacrifice, which made America a stronger and freer nation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:46 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1487. An act to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to establish a program to issue Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2447. An act to grant the congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3898. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methacrylic Polymer; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 8891-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3899. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trifloxystrobin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8890-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3900. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Flutriafol; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9325-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3901. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methacrylic acid-methyl methacrylate-polyethylene glycol monomethyl ether methacrylate graft copolymer; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 8891-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3902. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Abamectin (avermectin); Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8890-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3903. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection